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June 21, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 99D-0557

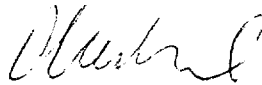
To Whom It May Concern:

Food and Drug Administration guidelines issued April 6, 1999 instituted a de facto ban of nonhuman primate xenografts because they would expose patients and the public to "significant infectious disease risk". The guidelines failed to address dangers with respect to other species. Transgenic pigs are considered the source animal of choice for xenotransplants, despite the existence of over 25 diseases in pigs that can infect humans. Pigs are no safer than nonhuman primates, as evidenced by swine influenza, the porcine endogenous retrovirus, paramyxovirus, and the "Nipah" virus found in Malaysia.

There are safer, more cost-effective and humane alternatives to xenotransplantation that are currently not being explored by regulatory agencies, including investment in preventative medicine programs.

I request that the Department of Health and Human Services ban xenotransplantation from all nonhuman species immediately.

Sincerely,

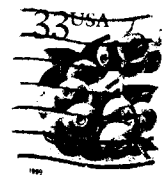


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